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September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

Congratulations to you and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure for the introduction of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

As the region's regional chamber of commerce, we strongly support passage and implementation of this bi-partisan piece of legislation that is critical to the nation's economy and the Greater Cleveland region.

We are especially pleased with the language included in the bill that identifies and governs the management of the Great Lakes Navigation System.

The Great Lakes region's waterways are critical to the movement of commodities and finished goods to and from Ohio, including \$39.9 billion in manufactured goods, \$11.5 billion of basic chemicals, and \$7.6 billion of non-metallic minerals. WRRDA identifies and recognizes the interconnectivity that exists within the system and the need to maintain efficient and cost-effective modes of transportation.

Thank you again for your work to create the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 and for identifying the need to manage the Great Lakes as a Navigation System. We look forward to the passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Roman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Roman
President and CEO
Greater Cleveland Partnership

Cc: The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment